## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office action dated September 14, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,407,422 B1, granted Jun 18, 2002, to Asano *et al.* Claims 5, 9-11 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano *et al.* in view of PAY 6,613,679 B2, granted Sept4ember 2, 2003, to Chino. The Examiner indicated that claims 6-8, 12-14 and 17-18 would be allowable if presented in independent form.

In the Specification, no changes.

In the Claims, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 6, which are cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13, which is cancelled. Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17, which has been cancelled. Claims 12 and 15 have also been amended to clarify that the flow rate of Cl gas is twice that of Bel gas. Claims 7 and 18 have been amended to correct claims dependency following cancellation of their immediate parent claims 6 and 17, respectively.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections stated in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

## Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258

Page 7 Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 for Serial No. 10/676,983

Customer Number

Respectfully Submitted,

55376

ROBERT D. VARITZ, P.C.

Registration No: 31436

Telephone:

503-720-1983

Facsimile:

503-233-7730

Robert D. Varitz

4915 S.E. 33d Place

Portland, Oregon 97202

## CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. Date of Deposit - December 13, 2005 EV713893853US)

I hereby certify that the attached RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Change of Correspondence Address and Associate Power of Attorney are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

> MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450